FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

National Press Views the Probe

The National Observer

It is difficult to make any sense out of the spectacle going on in New Orleans, but it's worth a try because the American public has been teased on by a pitchman. . . .

For weeks, District Attorney Jim Garrison has been employing all the tricks of the pitchman to bolster his story that he has uncovered a conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy. With a flair for the melodramatic, he has succeeded to an incredible extent in getting the public and the press to pay him serious attention.

There was always the chance, slim though it seemed from the beginning, that he did indeed have something. That chance, call it one in a thousand, plainly has intimidated many close and knowledgeable observers from saying flat out what they personally and strongly believe: That the Garrison case, if there is one, is phony. . . . Mr. Garrison is not the first, nor will he be the last, to exploit the doubts that linger over the assassination. It was acknowledged by the Warren Commission that there probably never would be final answers to some questions left hanging by the commission's study. Jack Ruby's bullets guaranteed that. So there will be unanswered questions—and, undoubtedly, opportunists forever ready to supply their answers. . . .

The Washington Post

It is hard to know just what to make of Jim Garrison's sleazy legal extravaganza. With the New Orleans district attorney, in the end, be able to establish a substantial connection between his particular cast of emotionally disturbed characters and the national tragedy of November 22, 1963? Or does the plot, in fact, exist only in the overstimulated imaginations of Garrison's strange troupe?

At the moment, certainly, the prospect of a legally presentable "solution" of the Kennedy assassination and a refutation of the Warren Commission findings seems remote at the best. The prosecutor's star witness, Perry Raymond Russo, had told a story that contradicts, on several key points, public statements he made less than a month ago. Until prodded by Garrison, he did not recognize the "Leon Oswald," who, he says, plotted the death of Kennedy, as Lee Harvey Oswald who carried it out. And yet he was able, with absolute certainty, to describe minute differences between a rifle Oswald was cleaning three years ago and a rifle produced in court by the district attorney.

It is, of course, possible that Garrison has more to offer in support of his arrest of Clay L. Shaw as a participant in an assassination plot. Indeed it would seem incredible for an experienced lawyer, who must be aware of the possibility of a suit for false arrest, to stick his neck out so far on such slender evidence. One can only assume that there is more to come.

But one conclusion can already be drawn from the strange goings on in New Orleans. This investigation into the assassination of the President is being conducted with the dignity and legal propriety of a smelly circus sideshow. Regardless of the outcome, it is clear that Garrison's interest in that terrible moment of history lies solely in how it can be used for the personal and political betterment of Jim Garrison. It is a disgraceful performance.

SENT BUREAU
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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 8

New Orleans States-Item

Date: 3-27-67
Edition: Red Comet
Author:
Editor:
Title: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY 11-22-63
Character:
or
Classification: 89-
Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

5-1611354
SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
MAR 27 1967
FBI — NEW ORLEANS